

Words of

Truth & Reason

Acts 26:25

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CHURCH OF CHRIST—QUAIL VALLEY

There Is One Baptism: *Holy Spirit or Water Baptism? (1)*

The Bible tells of several baptisms (of John Matt. 21:25, with the Holy Spirit Acts 1:4-5, in water Acts 10:47-48). Paul told the Ephesians *there is one baptism* (Eph. 4:5). So which baptism is the *one baptism*? Acts 19:1-5 shows Paul did not teach John’s baptism, but what about the other two?

In Scripture, sinners were commanded to be baptized in water because that was the instruction of Jesus (Matt. 28:19; Mark 16:16). After convincing the Jews of their sin, Peter commanded and exhorted them to repent and be baptized (Acts 2:38). A few years later, Peter gave the same

instructions to the Gentiles (Acts 10:47-48).

Baptism with the Holy Spirit was quite different. No one asked for and thereby received it or was commanded to seek it. Jesus promised that the apostles would be baptized with the Holy Spirit—a *promise* He would keep, not a command for them to keep (Acts 1:4-5). They waited in Jerusalem for the Spirit to come, having no idea when it would happen.

These two baptisms are very different and clearly cannot *both* be the “one baptism.” Continue reading for further study---

In This Issue:

- *There is One Baptism: Spirit or Water Baptism*
- *God’s Grace & Marriage Laws*

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There Is One Baptism: *Holy Spirit or Water Baptism? (2)*

There is one, and only one, Lord and hope—there cannot be two. There is also *one baptism* (Eph. 4:4-6). Is it water or Holy Spirit baptism?

In Scripture, when sinners understood the gospel they requested to be baptized in water. When the Ethiopian first learned about Jesus, the first question we are told he asked was about baptism (Acts 8:36). In Acts 2:41, 3,000 people desired the remission of sins and by faith, after repenting of sin, received that desire when baptized in water.

Baptism with the Holy Spirit was different, never being requested or given in response to man’s request. The apostles did not know they would receive Spirit baptism on Pentecost (Acts 1:4-8; 2:1-4). Cornelius’ household did not request or expect the Spirit to fall on them (Acts 10:44). In every case, God alone decided when this baptism would be given.

There Is One Baptism: *Holy Spirit or Water Baptism? (3)*

Is the *one baptism* water or Spirit baptism (Eph. 4:5)? Note the different purpose and results of these two baptisms.

The purpose of water baptism and Jesus' blood are stated in the same ways: save (1 Pet. 3:21; 1 Cor. 15:2-3), wash (Acts 22:16; Rev. 1:5), cleanse (Eph. 5:26; Heb. 9:14), and the remission of sins (Acts 2:38; Matt. 26:28). Jesus' blood is the power, not water. Access into the benefits of Jesus' blood is given by faith at water baptism (Rom.6:3; Col.2:12).

The purpose of Holy Spirit baptism is identified by its results. When the apostles were baptized with the Spirit, as Jesus promised, it proved salvation in Christ was available (Acts 1:4-11; 2:12, 36-38). This baptism did not occur again until the Holy Spirit fell on Cornelius (while water baptism persisted). Peter cited the uniqueness of those events to convince the Jews that salvation in Christ was open to the Gentiles (Acts 11:15-18). Spirit baptism proved that Christ's salvation was offered to sinners. This record is our evidence.

Today, we do not need ongoing miracles to know salvation is open to all, but sinners still need to be saved. Thus, water baptism is the *one baptism*. Send us your comments or questions.

*Eph 4:4-5 There is . . .
one Lord, one faith,
one baptism;*

You are invited to:
Sunday AM Bible classes:
10:00AM
Sunday AM Worship:
10:45AM
Sunday PM Worship:
5:00 PM
Wednesday Bible Classes
& Worship: **7:00 PM**

God's Grace & Marriage Laws

It happened in Egypt, Israel, Persia, and Babylon. The leaders of these nations made laws which contradicted God's law (Exodus 5; Numbers 13; Esther 3; Daniel 3, 6). Many American leaders have been doing the same so the recent redefinition of marriage is not a total surprise. The greater surprise comes from people who claim to believe the Bible but reject its teachings. In March (2015), the Presbyterian Church(USA) changed its *Book of Order* from "Marriage . . . is between a man and a woman" to "Marriage . . . involves two people." By this, they reject Jesus who said a man and his wife are the "two" who are "one." (Matthew 19:5-6)

What is missing from man-made laws is *the grace of God . . . teaching us that, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously, and godly in the present age* (Ti. 2:11-12). Man's social and religious traditions often change and contradict God's grace (*inherited sin* versus Ezekiel 18:20; *salvation by faith alone* versus Mark 16:16). We want every homosexual, adulterer, and liar to seek and find *the grace of God in truth* which brings salvation (Col. 1:6). We are interested in hearing your comments, questions.

Questions from this issue's articles:

1. Which baptism was a command and which baptism was promised?
2. Which baptism was requested by sinners and which baptism was given at God's discretion?
3. What were the purposes of water baptism and Holy Spirit baptism?
4. Beside the Supreme Court of the U.S., who else has recently redefined marriage?

* Mail your answers to the church of Christ in Quail Valley 4104 E. Harrison St, Batesville, AR 72501 OR, e-mail your answers to **TruthAndReason@suddenlink.net**

* If you have a comment or question, call (793-6700; 569-4491) or visit our website **WWW.QVCOC.COM**

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